

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 1849 without my signature.

This bill would lower certain monetary thresholds which trigger electronic filing requirements.

On-line campaign reporting is one of the most significant advancements in the area of political reform, since the original passage of the Political Reform Act in 1974. Under existing law, the Secretary of State was required, by December 31, 2002, to provide a means or method whereby filers subject to the Online Disclosure Act may submit required filings free of charge. While the Secretary of State's Office has reported significant progress toward the development of a free on-line filing system, the system has not been completed.

Although I have no issues with the concept of lowering the threshold to utilize online filing systems, the system is not ready. Today I have signed SB 1712 which would require the Secretary of State to report on the filing requirements to promote on-line submissions. When that report is complete or if the system is developed beforehand, then the lowering of the threshold would be appropriate.

For this reason I am returning this bill without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger